

LibraryThing Auto-Metric Converter

Overview

The **LT Auto-Metric Converter** is a browser userscript that automatically converts physical book dimensions from imperial units (inches/pounds) to metric units (centimeters/kilograms) when editing or adding books on LibraryThing.com.

Instead of manually clicking the "Convert to Metric" button every time you edit a book entry, this script does it automatically, saving time and ensuring consistent metric measurements across your library catalog.

How It Works

Methodology

The script works by:

1. **Page Detection:** Monitors LibraryThing pages to identify book editing contexts (new entries at `/addnew.php` and edit pages containing `/edit`)
2. **Automatic Conversion:** Once a target page loads, the script waits for LibraryThing's built-in conversion function to become available, then automatically calls `convertPhysDescUnits(1)` to switch to metric units
3. **Smart Timing:** Uses a delay system with retry logic to ensure the page has fully loaded and LibraryThing's functions are available before attempting conversion
4. **User Feedback:** Shows a brief notification when conversion occurs successfully

Technical Details

- **Trigger Pages:** Activates on book entry and editing pages
- **Conversion Delay:** 1-second initial delay to allow page loading
- **Retry Logic:** Up to 5 retry attempts with 500ms intervals if LibraryThing's function isn't ready
- **Visual Feedback:** Temporary blue notification appears for 3 seconds after successful conversion

Installation Instructions

Prerequisites

You need a userscript manager extension installed in your browser:

- **Chrome/Edge:** [Tampermonkey](#)

- **Firefox:** [Tampermonkey](#) or [Greasemonkey](#)
- **Safari:** [Userscripts](#)

Installing the Script

1. **Copy the Script:** Copy the entire contents of `LT-Metric-1.0.js`
2. **Open Tampermonkey Dashboard:**
 - Click the Tampermonkey extension icon in your browser
 - Select "Dashboard" from the menu
3. **Create New Script:**
 - Click the "+" tab or "Create a new script" button
 - Delete any default content in the editor
 - Paste the copied script code
4. **Save the Script:**
 - Press `Ctrl+S` (Windows/Linux) or `Cmd+S` (Mac)
 - Or click the save icon/File → Save
5. **Verify Installation:**
 - The script should appear in your Tampermonkey dashboard
 - Status should show as "Enabled"

Managing the Script

Method 1: Current Page Controls

When visiting LibraryThing pages where the script is active:

To Temporarily Disable:

1. Click the Tampermonkey extension icon
2. You'll see "LT Auto-Metric Converter" listed
3. Click the toggle switch next to it to disable
4. Refresh the page for changes to take effect

To Re-enable:

1. Click the Tampermonkey extension icon
2. Click the toggle switch to turn it back on
3. Refresh the page

Method 2: Dashboard Management

For permanent changes or detailed configuration:

Access Dashboard:

1. Click Tampermonkey extension icon → "Dashboard"
2. Find "LT Auto-Metric Converter" in the script list

Enable/Disable:

- Use the toggle switch in the "Enabled" column
- Green = Active, Gray = Disabled

Advanced Options:

- Click the script name to edit
- Modify the `CONFIG` section to customize behavior:

```
javascript

const CONFIG = {
  autoConvert: true,    // Set to false to disable
  conversionDelay: 1000, // Delay in milliseconds
  maxRetries: 5,       // Retry attempts
  debug: true          // Console logging
};
```

Important Limitations & Warnings

⚠ Existing Entries Behavior

Key Point: Existing book entries will retain their current units (imperial or metric) until they are saved again.

- **What This Means:** If you have a book entry showing "5.5 x 8.5 inches", the script won't change the displayed values until you edit and save that entry
- **When Conversion Happens:** The script only activates the metric conversion when you're actively editing a form
- **Permanent Change:** Once you save an entry with the script active, those metric measurements become the stored values

Recommendations

If You Want Metric Units:

- Keep the script enabled
- Edit and save any existing entries you want converted

If You Want to Keep Imperial Units:

- Disable the script before editing entries you want to remain in imperial units
- Or temporarily disable when working with specific books

Mixed Libraries:

- You can selectively enable/disable the script depending on which books you're editing
- Consider your needs before making bulk edits

Troubleshooting

Script Not Working?

1. **Check Script Status:** Verify the script is enabled in Tampermonkey dashboard
2. **Refresh Page:** After enabling/disabling, refresh the LibraryThing page
3. **Check Console:** Press F12 → Console tab to see debug messages (if `debug: true`)
4. **Verify Page Type:** Script only works on `/addnew.php` and pages containing `/edit`

Common Issues

"No conversion happening":

- Ensure you're on a book editing page (not just viewing)
- Check that LibraryThing's conversion button is normally available on the page
- Look for the blue notification that confirms conversion

"Script conflicts":

- If you have other LibraryThing userscripts, try disabling them temporarily to isolate issues

"Notification not showing":

- Conversion might still be working; check if units switched in the form fields
- Disable ad blockers that might hide notifications

Debug Mode

Enable debug logging by ensuring `debug: true` in the CONFIG section. This will show detailed console messages about the script's operation.

Version History

- **v1.0:** Initial release with automatic metric conversion, retry logic, and user notifications

Support

This script works by interfacing with LibraryThing's existing conversion functionality. If LibraryThing changes their site structure or function names, the script may need updates.

For issues or suggestions, refer to the script's source code comments for technical details.